

## Welcome from Governor Brian Schweitzer

I am a businessman who has spent my life working my own ranch, providing irrigation consulting and raising my three children along with my wife Nancy. Being elected Governor of Montana in 2004 is my first elected position. As a small businessman I know what it takes to succeed in business. I am committed to growing the economy of Montana across the broad spectrum of economic sectors. I advocate environmentally responsible energy development that will make use of the vast resources of wind and coal energy in abundant supply in eastern Montana.

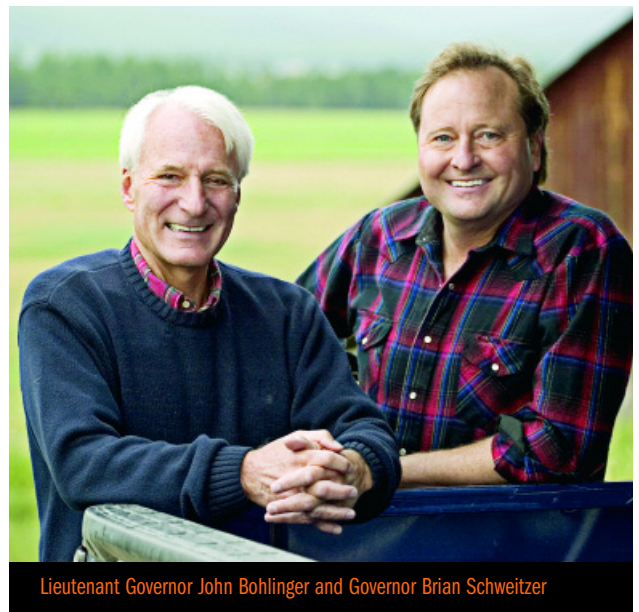
It is an honor to govern a state recognized worldwide for its pristine rivers, majestic mountains and wide-open spaces. As governor I will continue to highlight our extraordinary natural beauty and I will try to share with the world the undiscovered riches of our friendly and hardworking Montanans.

I have a special interest in energy development. Montana is blessed with world class energy resources: wind, bio-mass and 25% of the recoverable reserves of coal in the nation. Montana has a unique and profoundly important position in the energy future of this country. I believe breaking America's foreign oil addiction should be a top priority nationally and Montana can provide a good share of the energy needed to do that. I ask why continue funding sheiks, dictators and terrorists with our oil purchases? I say we should:

- **Stop fighting wars to keep foreign oil flowing**
- **Stop financing terrorists**
- **Build domestic industries that generate jobs and wealth**

The reason that Montana is ripe for this type of energy development starts with the location of its vast energy resources. That location is the wide open great plains of eastern Montana – an economically distressed region that desperately needs growth. While Montana has enjoyed the 5th fastest growing economy in the last 5 years, that growth has gone on in western Montana while energy rich eastern Montana has benefited little from the growth. The area is losing population and the folks of this region want to see industry that will create jobs and wealth.

Because everyone knows Montana to be one of the most beautiful areas in the world, we've earned our reputation as a first-class vacation destination. But we're also a state that's full of economic possibilities, as



Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger and Governor Brian Schweitzer

many companies are fast discovering we have the workforce, infrastructure and policies to make their ventures successful. Plus, Montana's simply a great place to live. Here is a list of major attributes for doing business in Montana. We are the:

- **4th least costly state to do business in**
- **4th largest state in the union – wide open with room to grow**
- **9th most favorable business tax climate**
- **12th lowest state and local tax burden**
- **14th best state in digitized government practices**

Montana is among the top 15 most desired states to live in and our polls show that 8 out of 10 Montanans support my proposal to responsibly develop Montana's energy resources. Montana ranks number one in the nation in wind energy potential when compared with other states when utilizing class 3 winds and greater as the basis for comparison. Our coal reserves are huge, estimated at 120 billion recoverable tons and extend across eastern Montana and consist of lignite, sub-bituminous and bituminous qualities. Much of it is easily surface mined under low overburden and standard reclamation techniques can restore the mined sites to productive use without harming the environment. The state owns over 1 billion tons of coal and my administration has identified clean energy development as our permitting agencies' highest priorities.

I have gone on national television (CBS "60 Minutes" program in late February 2006) to promote coal to liquids development as a means to break our addiction to foreign oil. The response to that program has been one of tremendous support nationally. My office was flooded with e-mails and calls from all across the nation from people who want to see the US get away from foreign oil and we want to lead the way. Won't you come join me in this important endeavor?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Schweitzer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Governor Brian Schweitzer